

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Defenses on Santsao Island

DATE DISTR. 6 Aug 51

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1. Since the airfield on Santsao Island (113 - , 22 - ) was not damaged when the Nationalist forces left, the Chinese Communists needed only a little labor to repair it. Because of its limited area the field is usable only for a small number of fighters and for refueling. Several hundred drums of gasoline were recently unloaded at Lientong (sic) from Macao.
2. Although the Chinese Communists have made several efforts to expand the airfield, they have been unsuccessful because of the geographical limitations. In January 1951, Soviet advisers attached to the Chinese Communist Air Command suggested the construction of an underground hangar, but no further action has been taken because of the large amounts of material required for such construction.
3. In early March two planes landed at the field bringing a number of Chinese and Soviet personnel including Colonel Wei-mi-szu-chi (魏米斯基), a Soviet adviser; Lt. Col. Chi-szu-k'c (吉其核), a staff officer of the Soviet N.M. East Air Force Headquarters; and WANG Shu-hsun (王樹勋) and LO K'ai-chi (黎開基), staff officers of the Chinese Communist Air Command, plus 17 Chinese and Soviet engineers. These persons had the mission of deciding upon the location and method of constructing the underground hangar, but the actual engineering project will probably not begin until early May.
4. Lientong (sic) harbor, Santsao, is closed to navigation. Three armed motor-boats and two small gunboats patrol the area to block the entrance to Seui (sic) and Chungshan (113-36, 22-22) and to assist the customs watch on smuggling.
5. Defense works on Santsao consist of old Japanese fortifications which have been repaired. Highways are being repaired and extended. Electrical cables have been set up.
6. Two hundred Chinese Communist soldiers, mostly from other provinces, are stationed on the island with four anti-tank guns. Most of them are at Lientong and Chungsinyu (sic). A small number of them are at the fortresses of Tamen and Haiaomen.

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